(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The vessel M.G. Nicobar is proposed to be deployed for the Haj service during 1992 as it is the only suitable Indian passeger vessel available at present for operating the Haj service. With the withdrawal of this vessel from mainland-Andaman service, it is expected that two vessels M.V. Harshavardhana and M.V. Nacowry (new vessel which is expected to be delivered shortly) will be available for operation on the mainland-Andaman service during April-September 1992. Steps have also been initiated to find long term options for carriage of Haj pilgrims.

Cotton Mills in Orissa

1689. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: *Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:*

(a) the number of cotton mills functioning in Orissa at present;

(b) whether the cotton mills in the State are facing difficulties in getting cotton; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) As per the information available, there were 14 cotton/man-made fibres textile mills (13 spinning and 1 composite) in Orissa as on 31.1.91.

(b) and (c). There is no difficulty regarding availability of cotton. However, some mills are finding it difficult to purchase adequate quantities as prices of cotton has increased during the current year as a result of fall in cotton production due to failure of rains particularly in Central India.

Bank Frauds

1690. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of rise in the bank frauds at the end of 1991 as compared to the year 1990, State-wise;

(b) the amount involved in the fraud cases during the above period;

(c) whether the Government have set up any committee to go into the issue in its entirety;

(d) if so, whether the committee has submitted its reports; and

(e) if so, the recommendations of the committee and the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the present data maintenance system does not yield State-wise information about number of bank frauds and amount involved therein. RBI has further reported that it has not yet received information about number and amount of frauds detected in commercial banks during October to December 1991. A comparison of banktrauds at the end of 1990 and 1991 cannot, therefore, be made. However, a comparison of number and amount of frauds for the period January to September, 1990 (1357 frauds involving Rs. 7924.30 lakhs + $ 7500 + SHS 4597787) and January to September 1991 (1288 frauds involving Rs. 4722.30 lakhs + $ 8000) shows a declining trend in the number of frauds by 5.08% and in amount by about 40.41%.

(b) RBI has reported that an amount of 11014.98 lakhs + $7500 + SHS 4597787 Rs. 4722.30 lakhs + $ 8000 was involved in bank frauds in respect of all commercial banks in India (including their foreign branches) in 1990 and 1991 (upto September, 1991) respectively).

(c) On the advice of Government, RBI has appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of the then Deputy Governor of RBI to enquire into various aspects relating to frauds and malpractices in Banks.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Income Tax Notices to Persons Having Telephones

1691. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in some States the Income Tax Department is issuing notices to all those who have acquired new telephones; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). "New Telephone Connections" has been identified as one of the parameters for enquiries to discover potential new tax-payers. Accordingly, on the basis of information obtained from the concerned authorities regarding persons who had boked or acquired new telephone onnections, the Central Information Branches of the Income-tax Department in the States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana & Tamil Nadu, enquity letters were issued on a selective basis to the persons concerned and the information gathered has been communicated to the Assessing Officers for appropriate action.

Voluntary Retirement Scheme for D.T.C. Employees

1692. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to launch a voluntary retirement scheme for the Delhi Transport Corporation employees; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and the number of employees proposed to be reduced by the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). A Group of Ministers chaired by the Finance Minister has been constituted to work out an inter-connected package for the rehabilitation of DTC, in order to ensure its long term viability. A voluntary retirement scheme for DTC employees is one of the proposals under consideration of the Group of Minister. No final decision has yet been taken on the scheme.

Loans to SSTs

[*Translation*]

1693. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV:
SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR:
SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV:
SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any guidelines have been laid down for grant of loans to Small Scale